Professor Lumsden is responsible for the third part of the book, dealing with the clinical pathology of the disease. There are chapters on the proteins of cerebrospinal fluid, the metabolism of amino acids in brain, intermediate carbohydrate metabolism and the levels of various enzymes in cerebrospinal fluid and serum. The lipids of the brain and cerebrospinal fluid are given special consideration in view of their possible intimate involvement in this disease. There is also a chapter on the clinical immunology of multiple sclerosis.

The morbid anatomy of multiple sclerosis is intentionally omitted since there is to follow a separate monograph on the subject.

The extensive lists of references, and the provision of both an author index and a subject index at the end, must enhance the value of this splendid book, particularly to the research worker in the many aspects of the disease. It should provide fascinating reading and food for thought for all who come in contact with it.

K J ZILKHA

Blood and Bone Marrow Cell Culture
by H Jackson Woodliff
MB PhD MRCPE MCPA MCPath DCP DPath
pp xiv+141 illustrated 30s
London: Eyre & Spottiswoode 1964

This book is a review of the existing techniques, recent results and future possibilities of *in vitro* culture of cells obtained from blood and bone marrow. It is well and clearly written, contains an extensive list of references and, in addition, has the great merit that it assumes the reader has no previous knowledge of the subject.

The early chapters describe methods of tissue culture in general and how they have been applied to the culture of blood and bone marrow cells. The results of culturing normal cells and cells obtained from patients with a wide variety of blood diseases is described, as well as the effects of nutrients, stimulants, such as phytohæmagglutinin, and cytotoxic drugs on such cultures.

These studies have shed some light on the transformation of megaloblasts into normoblasts and have shown that it is possible to demonstrate, *in vitro*, that some leukæmic cells are sensitive and others resistant to a particular drug. However, Dr Woodliff concludes that 'from the amount of work that has gone into such studies the positive results appear rather meagre . . . due to the limitations of present technical methods'. He discusses the future possibilities, which are immense, and hopes that some of them will be realized in the next decade.

This is an excellent book for anyone interested in tissue culture techniques and their application to hæmatology.

G HAMILTON FAIRLEY

Niacin in Vascular Disorders and Hyperlipemia
compiled and edited by Rudolf Altschul
pp xi+306 illustrated $11
Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964

This book contains a series of articles on the effects of large doses of nicotinic acid. The editor and principal contributor is Dr Altschul, whose work on oxygen tension and serum lipid levels led him to test nicotinic acid, an agent which was known to affect oxidative metabolism. His contribution sets out the way in which the lipid-lowering action of nicotinic acid was studied, and gives a clear account of the pharmacological properties of the agent. One is glad to find that he makes no claim for its therapeutic value, for while it is clear that it lowers lipid levels, there is no evidence so far that it confers benefit on patients.

What emerges very clearly from this book is the frequency with which troublesome side-effects (especially flushing) occur when lipid-lowering doses are given, so that even if lipid reduction comes to occupy a major place in the management of arterial disease, it is unlikely that niacin will be the most useful way of bringing this about. It is also clear that the way in which the serum lipids are reduced is not yet known, and it is of interest that the agent gives the same change in some liver function tests as the more recently introduced clofibrate.

The book is well produced, is commendably free from errors and has a good author and subject index. It is quite expensive, and is likely to be a book to which workers will refer from time to time in a library, rather than include it in their own personal collection.

J R A MITCHELL

Atlas of Neuropathology
by W Blackwood, T C Dodds
and J C Sommerville
2nd ed pp xii+234 illustrated 60s
Edinburgh & London: E & S Livingstone 1964

The second edition of this useful volume appears fifteen years after the first, and at a time when students, especially postgraduates, are expected to devote more attention than formerly to the subject of neuropathology. For this reason this atlas, more detailed than its predecessor, is especially welcome, for Professor Blackwood and his colleagues have succeeded in presenting in simple form, and have admirably expressed the essential facts concerning, the commoner occurrences in neuropathological practice. Particularly helpful are the comparative photographs; for instance, we are shown the normal as well as infarcted cortex as revealed with Pickworth's stain and the astrocytes in the normal cortex as well as that in GPI as seen by Cajal's method. The lesions are